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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS
AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC COOPERATION
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 28 October 1996 from the Permanent Representatives of Hungary, Italy and Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you a joint declaration by the Foreign Ministers of Hungary, Italy and Slovenia, issued at Rome on 23 October 1996.

We would be very grateful if you would have the text of the joint declaration circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 96, 97, 101 and 102, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) István NÁTHON
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Hungary
to the United Nations

(Signed) F. Paolo FULCI
Permanent Representative
of Italy
to the United Nations

(Signed) Danilo TÜRK
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Slovenia
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Joint declaration by the Foreign Ministers of Hungary, Italy and Slovenia, issued at Rome on 23 October, 1996

Firmly convinced that Europe's future stability and development can only be based upon the final completion of the processes of European and Atlantic integration,

Desirous of contributing to the building of a Europe of the citizens, in which the rights of each individual, each community and each minority group will be fully recognized,

Conscious of the aspirations of Slovenia and Hungary for integration as quickly as possible into the European Union and the Euro-Atlantic security structures, as well as of the support which Italy is providing for these aspirations,

Aware of the need further to develop cooperation in the perspective of the widening of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and in the context of the new European security architecture, which is also being developed within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,

Committed to cooperate in carrying out the reinforcement of political stability in central and south-eastern Europe, as well as its economic growth,

Determined to strengthen the friendly, cooperative and good-neighbourly relations among our countries,

Willing to further develop closer cultural ties on the basis of common values and traditions,

We, the Foreign Ministers of Italy, Slovenia and Hungary have met today at Rome, and have reached full agreement in our views with regard to the following priorities:

- Carrying out the enlargement of the European Union, guaranteeing our maximum support to the effective implementation of the pre-accession strategy defined at Essen, as well as the full respect of the calendar decided upon in the European Council at Madrid with regard to the opening of negotiations with the applicant countries. Italy will continue its own efforts in favour of broadening the political dialogue, developed on the basis of the "Italo-Britannic Initiative" of 1994. Periodic trilateral consultations will be established with regard to the process of enlargement of the European Union and to related subjects of common interest. Italy will place its own experience as a member State of the Union at the disposal of Slovenia and Hungary, in order to assist them in the adhesion process;

- Integrating Slovenia and Hungary in the Euro-Atlantic security structure by further developing, in particular the ties that already

exist within the framework of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC) and the Partnership for Peace initiative (PfP), as well as by supporting Hungary and Slovenia to be among the first new NATO members;

- Developing cooperation among the army forces, in the perspective of the NATO enlargement;

- Actively committing our three countries to the development of cooperation at the regional level and working together to give new impetus to the activities of the Central European Initiative (CEI), with a view to the Graz Summit, so that CEI might be able to carry out an increasingly effective role in the reinforcement of the political, economic and cultural relations of its members. The "Instrument for the Protection of Minorities", which was open to signature at Turin on 16 November 1994, constitutes an effective framework that provides guarantees for the protection of minorities in this region. We are convinced that the full protection and effective respect for the rights of minorities constitute a source of stability in this region and represent a crucial element for the strengthening of mutual confidence and for the enhancement of cultural and economic cooperation;

- Undertaking cooperation with regard to developing infrastructure networks, and concentrating our efforts on the completion of the Trieste-Koper/Capodistria-Ljubljana-Budapest section of the Fifth Multimodal Corridor, with appropriate financing to be supplied by the European Union, especially through the PHARE programme, and by other multilateral organizations such as the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, as well as by the joint efforts to be carried out by the relevant authorities. This cooperation will be extended also to other transport modes, particularly to railways and the port infrastructure of the upper Adriatic;

- Promoting the development of economic and commercial relations between our countries by facilitating the creation of joint ventures and direct investment, and by the exchange of information on the privatization process;

- Committing ourselves to elaborate joint project proposals of common interest, and to present them jointly within the framework of the PHARE programme;

- Promoting cooperation for the modernization of border crossings and for the opening of new ones, also taking advantage of the financial means offered by PHARE and INTERREG;

- Promoting cooperation on environmental protection;

- Intensifying cooperation among universities and research institutes in the fields of culture, science and technology, in particular in the context of the IV and V Framework Programme of the European Union;

- Promoting the implementation of common research projects as well as the participation of scientists and researchers from our three countries in the activities carried out in the scientific pole of Trieste and in those initiated by the regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at Venice;

- Undertaking cooperation in the area of the free movement of people and immigration;

- Developing cooperation between our respective police and other institutions in charge of the fight against organized crime, money laundering and drug trafficking.

Finally, we have decided to guarantee continuity to our trilateral consultations. Ad hoc working groups will be created for political and security, economic and cultural affairs, as well as internal and judicial affairs. These working groups will meet on a regular basis under the coordination of the State Secretaries for Foreign Affairs, who will report to Ministers. Sectorial meetings at the ministerial level will also be held. Foreign Ministers will meet on a yearly basis.